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For Immediate Release
Thursday, March 10, 2005

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Governor signs bill securing bright futures for Iowa's enlisted men and women

DES MOINES —Governor Vilsack signed Senate File 75 today, an Act allocating funding appropriated to assist individuals assigned to active military service and providing effective and applicability date provisions.

Senate File 75 is an extension of legislation originally proposed by Governor Vilsack and enacted by the legislature in 2003 to allow State employees activated to military service to maintain their State health insurance benefits and receive a salary differential payment if their military activation resulted in less pay than their current state salary. Vilsack's original legislation was designed to prevent State employees called to active duty from suffering from economic hardship due to their military service.

Senate File 75 allocates dollars to the Iowa Finance Authority for a home ownership assistance program for eligible members of the Armed Forces; expands access to counseling services for Iowa soldiers and their family members; and provides additional resources for tuition assistance to members of the Iowa National Guard.

"This bill ensures our soldiers are able to serve our country with the confidence that they will remain financially secure and receive the services they deserve when they return home," said Governor Vilsack. "It also assists those brave men and women with fulfilling their dreams of homeownership and obtaining a college education. Those who serve our country make numerous sacrifices so that we can enjoy our many freedoms. I want to thank the Legislature for working together to ensure we uphold our commitments to these brave Iowans."

Senate File 75 reallocates funds remaining from an FY 2003 Cash Reserve Fund appropriation for a military pay differential program for state employees. The bill will take effect upon enactment and is retroactively applicable to May 17, 2004.

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